

19. The method according to Claim 7 wherein the aqueous solution has a pH of 7 or higher.

20. The method according to Claim 8 wherein the aqueous solution has a pH of 7 or higher.

21. The method according to Claim 9 wherein the aqueous solution has a pH of 7 or higher.

22. The method according to Claim 10 wherein the aqueous solution has a pH of 7 or higher.

23. The method according to Claim 11 wherein the aqueous solution has a pH of 7 or higher.

24. The method according to Claim 12 wherein the aqueous solution has a pH of 7 or higher.

25. The method according to Claim 13 wherein the aqueous solution has a pH of 7 or higher.

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26. The method according to Claim 14 wherein the aqueous solution has a pH of 7 or higher.

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27. The method according to Claim 15 wherein the aqueous solution has a pH of 7 or higher.

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28. The method according to Claim 17 wherein the aqueous solution has a pH of 7 or higher.

Please amend Claims 7, 9, 11, 13 and 14 as follows:

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7. (Amended) The method according to [any one of claims] Claim 1 [to 4], wherein said chelating agent is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid or an alkali metal salt thereof and an alkali metal salt of picolimic acid.

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9. (Amended) The method according to [any one of claims] Claim 1 [to 4], wherein said chelating agent is in a concentration of 0.005 mol/lit.

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11. (Amended) The method according to [any one of claims] Claim 1 [to 4], wherein said aqueous solution further contains an amine compound.